

Message Text

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O R 121100 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0052

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONGEN DANANG

AMCONGEN NHA TRANG

AMCONGEN BIEN HOA

AMCONGEN CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 SAIGON 6194

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT FOR APR 12

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZED ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE
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EMBASSY AS OF 2000 APR 12

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

PART I ICCS: NO FORMAL FINDING YET ON QUANG TRI
HELICOPTER INCIDENT; TONG LE CHAN
CEASEFIRE REQUESTED

PART II HANOI/ VC PROPAGANDA: HANOI CLAIMS HELI-
COPTER INVESTIGATION SUPPORTS PRG CLAIMS

PART II MR 1: INCIDENTS UP; CANDEL ICCS DISCOURAGED
OVER HELICOPTER INCIDENT BUT EXTREMELY
CLOSE- MOUTHED ABOUT INVESTIGATION

PART IV MR 2: ACTION IN BINH DINH, PHU YEN; KONTUM
QUIET AFTER LOCAL CONTACTS

PART V MR 3: TONG LE CHAN STILL BESIEGED; ICCS PLANS
SIX MORE INVESTIGATIONS

PART VI MR 4: MILITARY ACTIVITY UP; MEKONG CONVOY TO
TRY AGAIN APRIL 13 WITH RVNAF " MAXIMUM
EFFORT" TO SECURE IT' S PASSAGE TO
CAMBODIAN

PART I: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION
(ICCS)

1. ICCS TEAM WHICH O SAPR 10-11, VISITED SITE OF HELICOPTERS
SHOT DOWN IN WESTERN QUANG TRI RETURNED TO HUE EVENING APCH11.
REGION I TEAM (HUE) CONVENED 100 APR 12 TO DISCUSS FINDING. ICCS
SOURCES IN BOTH MR 1 AND SAIGON HAVE BEEN CLOSE- MOUTHED ABOUT
FINDINGS AND WE HAVE NO REPORT AS OF 1800 APR 12 RE OUTCOME OF
REGION I DELIBERATIONS. SPECULATION, FUELED BY BITS AND PIECES
OF INFORMATION FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, CENTERS ON WHETHER SITE
SEEN BY ICCS INVESTIGATORS WAS ACTUALLY CRASH SITE, OR WHETHER
PRG TINKERED WITH EVIDENCE AND MOVED WRECKAGE- AS WELL AS
SALVAGEABLE AIRCRAFT- TO LOCATION MORE CONSISTENT WITH PRG
CLAIMS. UNTIL MORE AUTHORITATIVE INFO IS AVAILABLE, EMBASSY
CANNOT DETERMINE DEFINITELY WHICH OF MANY VERSIONS OF LOCATION
IS ACCURATE.
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2. THE APR 11 ICCS PLENARY IN SAIGON OPENED WITH A DEBATE OF
THE TONG LE CHAN NON- INVESTIGATION. CANDEL PROPOSED A LETTER
TO THE TPJMC WHICH WOULD OFFER ICCS ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING A
CEASEFIRE IF THE TPJMC REQUESTED SAME. CANDEL PROPOSAL WAS
REJECTED BY HUNGDEL AND POLDEL. INDODEL, REFUSING TO
SUPPORT CANDEL, THEN PROPOSED A " COMPROMISE" LETTER WHICH
REMINDS THE TPJMC OF THE ICCS' S PREVIOUS COMMUNICATION OF
MAR 31 ON THE SUBJECT. TO CANDEL' S SURPRISE, HUNGDEL AND
POLDEL AGREED TO THE " COMPROMISE" LETTER AND IT WILL BE

SENT. (MAR 31 LETTER HAD SIMPLY ASKED TPJMC TO ARRANGE
CEASEFIRE SO THAT ICCS COULD INVESTIGATE SITUATION.)

3. THE ONLY OTHER SUBJECT DISCUSSED WAS WHAT MEASURES SHOULD
BE TAKEN IN LIGHT OF THE QUANG TRI HELICOPTER INCIDENT. THE
PLENARY DECIDED TO PUT OFF ANY DECISION UNTIL AFTER THE INVESTIGA-
TION REPORT ON THE INCIDENT IS RECEIVED. THE PLENARY CONFIRMED
SUSPENSION OF ALL CHOPPER FLIGHTS BUT ROUTINE SUPPORT AND ADMIN-
ISTRATIVE FLIGHTS WILL BE APPROVED ON A CASE- BY- CASE BASIS.

4. THE PLENARY WHICH WAS TO BE HELD THE AFTERNOON OF APR 12
HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL THE MORNING OF FRIDAY, APRIL 13, AS
THE HUNGARIANS ARE HOLDING A MEMORIAL SERVICE APR 12 FOR
THEIR MEN WHO WERE KILLED IN QUANG TRI. THE FRIDAY PLENARY
WILL CONSIDER A NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATIONS
FROM THE RVN AND THE PRG.

PART II: HANOI/ VC PROPAGANDA

ON APR 12, HANOI RADIO LISTED WHAT IT CALLED THE " CONCLUSIONS" OF
THE ICCS INVESTIGATION INTO THE APR 7 DOWNING OF TWO ICCS HELI-
COPTERS IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE (SEE FBIS SAIGON APR 120230 GMT).
AS OUTLINED BY HANOI RADIO, THE " CONCLUSIONS" REACHED DURING
THE APR 10 INVESTIGATION ALLEGEDLY BEAR OUT EARLIER ASSERTIONS
BY THE COMMUNISTS THAT THE HELICOPTERS WERE OFF THE DESIGNATED
FLIGHT PATH WHEN DOWNED. ACCORDING TO THE BROADCAST, THE INVES-
TIGATORS SAID THAT THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH " COULD NOT YET BE DE-
TERMINED." THE BROADCAST ALSO REFERRED TO A " MOTION" BY THE
LOCAL VIET CONG AUTHORITIES THAT THE ICCS GIVE EXPLICIT IN-
STRUCTIONS TO ITS PILOTS NOT TO DEVIATE FROM DESIGNATED FLIGHT
CORRIDORS, BUT IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE INVESTIGATORS CON-
CURRED IN THE " MOTION" OR WERE SIMPLY PRESENTED WITH IT.
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HANOI RADIO DID NOT SPECIFY WHETHER THE " CONCLUSIONS" WERE
REACHED UNANIMOUSLY OR IF MINORITY REPORTS WERE FILED. THE
BROADCAST'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THESE FINDINGS AS A " CONCLUSIVE
REPORT" SUGGESTS THAT, AS FAR AS THE COMMUNISTS ARE CONCERNED,
NO FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS ARE WARRANTED. (COMMENT: FBIS
SAIGON INFORMS US THAT RECEPTION OF THIS BROADCAST WAS VERY
POOR BUT THAT THEY EXPECT A REBROADCAST OF THE ITEM. IF SIGNIFI-
CANT CLARIFICATIONS OR CHANGES ARE FOUND IN THE REBROADCAST, THEY
WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL.)

PART III: MR 1

1. FOLLOWING APR 10 EXTREMELY LOW LEVEL OF ONLY EIGHT INCIDENTS,
THE LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY APR 11 ROSE TO 45 INCIDENTS.
HEAVIEST ACTIVITY WAS AGAIN IN THE FIRST DIVISION AO WEST
OF HUE WITH THREE GROUND ATTACKS AND 23 ABFS. THE SECOND
DIVISION AO IN QUANG NGAI/ QUANG TIN PROVINCES ALSO SAW

INCREASED ACTIVITY WITH TWO GROUND ATTACKS AND FIVE ABFS. THE AIRBORNE DIVISION AO WEST OF QUANG TRI CITY REPORTED TWO ABFS, THE FIRST REPORTED INCIDENTS IN A WEEK; HOWEVER, THE MARINES EAST OF QUANG TRI CITY CONTINUED THEIR CUSTOMARY "NO INCIDENTS" REPORT.

2. POLOFF QUANG TIN HAS BEEN TOLD BY CANDEL ICCS REPS THAT THEY FULLY EXPECT TO LEAVE VIETNAM BY JUNE 30 AND THAT THE HELICOPTER DOWNING IN QUANG TRI MAKES THIS MORE CERTAIN THAN EVER. AREA DIRECTOR AND POLOFF QUANG NGAI WERE TOLD BY CANDELS ON THE SUB- REGION TEAM THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN UNCOOPERATIVE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN ATTITUDES. (SEPTEL HAS FULL REPORT.)

3. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED BY POLOFF QUANG NGAI FROM THE CANDEL, THE ICCS SUB- REGION TEAM THERE HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATION FROM GVN OFFICIALS. THESE INCLUDE THE MINING OF A COMMERCIAL TRUCK ON NATIONAL

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USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONGEN DANANG

AMCONGEN NHA TRANG

AMCONGEN BIEN HOA

AMCONGEN CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 4 SAIGON 6194

HIGHWAY 1 NORTH OF SA HUYNH ON MAR 13; THE MORTAR ATTACK ON HUNG NGHIA HAMLET NEAR THE VAN LY PRISONER EXCHANGE SITE IN NORTHWESTERN DUC PHO DISTRICT ON MAR 18 ; AND THE UNSUCCESSFUL B40 ATTACK ON A COMMERCIAL BUS NORTH OF SA HUYNH ON MAR 31. ICCS/ SAIGON HAS NOTIFIED THE SUB- REGION TEAM TO GO AHEAD WITH INVESTIGATION OF THE MAR 25 INCIDENT IN WHICH A VNAF CHINOOK CARRYING ARVN POWS FROM VAN LY WAS FIRED ON AND ONE CREW
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MEMBER WOUNDED.

4. ACCORDING TO CANDELS OF THE SUB- REGION TEAM AT TAM DY. AS REPORTED BY POLOFF QUANG TIN, THEY AND INDOELS ON APR 9 VISITED THE SITE OF AN ATTACK ON A PF OUTSPOT AT THE INVITATION OF THE PROVINCE CHIEF WHO HAD TOLD THEM HE PREFERRED AN UNOFFICIAL VISIT WHILE THE " EVIDENCE WAS STILL WARM" RATHER THAN AWAIT THE LENGTHY PROCESSING OF A COMPLAINT THROUGH THE JMC AND ICCS TO SAIGON AND BACK.

5. ON APR 9, DR. PHAN QUANG DAN, MINISTER OF STATE, COMMENTED TO AN AMERICAN REP IN QUANG TRI THAT THE GVN INTENDS TO ENCOURAGE OTHER EXCHANGES TO TAKE PLACE WITH " THEM" (INDICATING THE NVA ACROSS THE THACH HAN RIVER) ON A VERY INFORMAL BASIS. DAN SAID: " THE IDEA WILL BE TO DEVELOP FRIENDLY CONTACTS BETWEEN BOTH SIDES."

6. IN QUANG TIN, TWELVE PRISONERS- OF- WAR HAVE BEEN RELEASED BY THE PRG AT KY QUE VILLAGE, TAM KY DISTRICT, SOUTHWEST OF THE PROVINCE CAPITAL. MOST OF THOSE RELEASED BELONGED TO THE 22 ND ARVNHAIVISION AND HAD BDTN CAPTURED LAST SPRING IN THE AREAS OF KONTUM CITY AND DAK TO, KONTUM PROVINCE.

PART IV: MR 2

1. MILITARY ACTION THIS PERIOD WAS HIGHLY CONCENTRATED: 12 ENEMY- INITATED INCIDENTS IN NORTHERN BINH DINH AND FOUR IN PHU YEN. REMAINING TWO INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN BINH THUAM AND PLEIKU. CUMULATIVE CASUALTY FIGURES (RVNAF, NONE KIA AND 15 WIA; VC, 4 KIA) REFLECTS ENEMY REVERSION TO TACTIC OF STANDING OFF AND HITTING RVNAF OUTPOSTS AND PATROLS WITH INDIRECT FIRE ATTACKS AND COMMAND- DETONATED MVMINES. CONGEN NHA TRANG OBSERVES THAT RESULTANT FRIENDLY ATTRITION, OFTEN WITH NO VISIBLE COMPENSATING LOSSES TO ENEMY, CONTINUES TO BE SOURCE OF GVN COMMAND FRUSTRATION AND CAUSE OF WANING TROOP MORAL IN SOME RVNAF UNITS.

2. AFTER- ACTION REPORT ON DAYLIGHT ENEMY ATTACK BY FIRE AND GROUND ASSAULT ON RF COMPANY APR 10 IN AREA APPROX 15 KMS WEST- SOUTHWEST OF KONTUM CITY (SAIGON 6140, APR 11 SITREP). WHICH RESULTED IN RF HIGH- TAILING IT, NOW LISTS FRIENDLY CASUALTIES AS 1 KIA, 45 WIA AND 60 MIA; ENEMY LOSSES UNKNOWN.
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3. HEAVY FIGHTING IN THIS AREA OF KONTUM OVER PAST TWO- AND- ONE- HALF WEEKS, IN WHICH NVA/ VC HAVE ROUTED FOUR RF COMPANIES, HAS BEEN FOR CONTROL OF HIGH GROUND WHICH DOMINATES AREAS TO EAST AND WEST. ENEMY APPARENTLY FEARS THAT RVNAF OCCUPATION OF IT COULD RESULT IN INTERDICTION OF AN INFILTRATION ROUTE TO WEST OF HIGH GROUND. (CONGEN HAS NOT YET ESTABLISHED WHO, IF ANYONE, WAS IN THE AREA ON JAN 28.)

4. HOWEVER, COMMANDERS OF OPPOSING FORCES IN AREA (280 TH AND 250 TH RF BATTALIONS; VC 304 TH LOCAL FORCE BATTALION, REINFORCED BY TWO COMPANIES OF NVA 95 B REGIMENT) HAVE ENTERED INTO FREQUENT RADIO CONTACT IN LAST SEVERAL DAYS. ACCORDING TO LATEST REPORT FROM KONTUM POLOFF, THE TWO SIDES HAVE NOW AGREED THAT NEITHER WILL ATTEMPT TO DEPLOY UNITS ON CONTESTED HILLTOP, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. EVIDENTLY AS RESULT OF THIS AGREEMENT, AREA HAS BEEN QUIET SINCE AFTERNOON OF APR 10.

5. AMENDED REPORT ON MINING OF PHU YEN SECTOR, CONVOY ATTEMPTING TO TRAVEL ROUTE 7 B TO SON HOA DISTRICT HQ APR 10 (SAIGON 6140 APR 11 SITREP) LISTS 9 WOUNDED RATHER THAN 18. SECTOR ALSO REPORTS THAT VC FIRED 57- MM RECOILESS RIFLE AT 3 CIVILIAN VEHICLES ON SAME ROAD APR 10 KILLING ONE CIVILIAN AND WOUNDING THREE OTHERS.

6. THESE INCIDENTS DEMONSTRATE THAT VC STILL HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH GROUND ALONG ROUTE 7 B AND INTEND TO OPPOSE GVN ATTEMPT TO OPEN ROAD TO REGULAR MILITARY AND CIVILIAN TRAFFIC. DISMISSED PHU YEN PROVINCE CHIEF LTCOL NGUYEN VAN TO SHARES THIS VIEW. HE TOLD LARGE GROUP OF WELL- WISHERS SEEING HIM OFF AT TUY HOA AIRFIELD APR 11 THAT TASK OF MAINTAINING SECURITY ON ROUTE 7 B IS GOING TO BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT THAN HE HAD ANTICIPATED.

7. DOWNING OF ICCS CHOPPER IN QUANG TRI APR 7 HAS DRAWN PESSIMISTIC REACTION FROM NHA TRANG ICCS DELEGATES WHOSE FLAG IS AT HALF- STAFF. RANKING CANDEL SAYS IT WAS JUST THE KIND OF INCIDENT THAT OTTAWA OPPONENTS OF CANDIAN ICCS PARTICIPATION HAD BEEN WAITING FOR AND COULD SPELL END OF THAT PARTICIPATION. " IF OUR SECURITY CANNOT BE ASSURED, IT IS OBVIOUS WE WON' T STAY," HE SAID. CANDEL REP BELIEVES SHOOTDOWN WAS INTENTIONAL ON PRG' S PART AND SPECULATES THAT PRG MAY WANT
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ICCS OUT OF THE PICTURE IF A NEW OFFENSIVE IS BEING PLANNED.
(CONTRARY CANDIAN REACTION
IN PHAN THIET WHERE REGION
IV CHIEF, COL CAMPBELL, TOLD POLOFF HE THINKS CHOPPER MIGHT
HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN BY ENEMY TROOPS WHO HAD KNOWN ONLY HOSTILE
HELICOPTERS IN PAST AND ARE READY TO FIRE AT VERY SOUND.)

8. NHA TRANG ICCS POLDEL INTERPRETER TOLD POLOFF THAT

LOCAL EAST EUROPEANS ARE 2 DISTURBED, ANGRY AND UPSET" OVER
THE INCIDENT. HE NOTED THAT HIS DELEGATION AND HUNGARIANS
WERE ALREADY UNCOMFORTABLE IN STRANGE ENVIRONMENT AND UNDER
CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM HIGHER HQ TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS
PROPERLY OR FACE DEMOTION. QUANG TRI INCIDENT HARDLY ADDS TO
THEIR SENSE OF WELL- BEING. INTERPRETER CLAIMS POLDEL/
HUNGDEL FEELINGS IN NHA TRANG ARE SO STRONG THAT, IF HIS
TEAM WERE INVESTIGATING SHOOTDOWN, IT MIGHT ISSUE UNANIMOUS
REPORT CONDEMNING PRG.

9. INDODEL REGIONAL CHIEF IN PHAN THIET, COL DIGARDJO, TOLD
POLOFF HE BELIEVES GVN CAN NEVER ACHIEVE TOTAL MILITARY VIC-
TORY AGAINST DEDICATED VC ORGANIZATION. DIHARDJO BELIEVES A
POLITICAL SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND THOUGH HE QUESTIONS GVN' S
CAPACITY FOR WORKING OUT A SETTLEMENT AND DOUBTS PARTICULARLY
THAT GVN WOULD EVER TOLERATE ITS FORMER ENEMIES OR REFRAIN
FROM TAKING VENGEANCE ON THEM. A FORMER GUERRILLA HIMSELF,
DIHARDJO COMPARED SITUATION IN VIETNAM WITH INDONESIA' S
STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE AGAINST THE DUTCH: " THE DUTCH HAD
ALL THE POPULATED AREAS AND THE ROADS; WE HAD ALL THE REST."
DIHARDJO NOTED THAT GVN IS RESPECTING THE CEASEFIRE WHILE VC
ARE NOT, JUST AS INDONESIANS REFUSED TO RESPECT TWO CZASEFIRES
WITH DUTCH UNTIL POLITICAL VICTORY ACHIEVED. CONGEN NHA TRANG

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T)

COMMENT: DIHARDJO WAS EVIDENTLY LESS IMPRESSED THAN HAD BEEN THOUGHT WITH DEGREE OF GVN CONTROL HE HAD SEEN IN HIS EXTENSIVE TRAVELS WHICH HAS INCLUDED CIRCULAR TRIP FROM PHAN THIET BY ROAD WHICH TOOK HIM THROUGH PHAN RANG, DALAT AND XUAN LOC.
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PART V: MR 3

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 3 CONTINUED AT ABOUT THE SAME LOW LEVEL AS YESTERDAY. THERE WERE SEVEN ATTACKS BY FIRE REPORTED (TAY NINH, LONG KHANH, AND PHUOC TUY PROVINCES), ONLY TWO OVER 20 ROUNDS; AND EIGHT MINOR GROUND PROBES (HAU NGHIA, LONG AN, LONG KHANH AND PHUOC TUY PROVINCES). THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT CASUALTIES ON EITHER SIDE IN ANY OF THESE CONTACTS. TONG LE CHAN BASE CAMP REMAINS UNDER SIEGE AND RECEIVED 145 ROUNDS OF MIXED ORDNANCE WHICH WOUNDED TWO RANGERS.
2. THERE ARE RUMORS OF A CONCENTRATION OF APPROXIMATELY 200 NVA/ VC TROOPS IN RUBBER PLANTATIONS NEAR TRANG BANG, HAU NGHIA. THESE TROOPS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN TELLING LOCAL POPULACE THAT BY APRIL 15 TRANG BANG WILL BE ATTACKED, QL-1 CUT, AND TAY NINH ISOLATED.
3. ICCS REGION V (BIEN HOA) AGREED APR 11 TO CONDUCT SIX MORE INVESTIGATIONS: TWO EACH FROM AN LOC, BEN CAT, AND CU CHI, ALL

RVN REQUESTED. FOUR RVN REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATIONS FROM XUAN LOC WERE VETOED BY ONE DELEGATION FOR " TECHNICAL REASONS." (CONGEN NOTES THAT ALTHOUGH CANADIAN SOURCE DID NOT SPECIFY WHICH DELEGATION CAST VETOES, SUBSEQUENT REMARKS INDICATED IT HAD PROBABLY BEEN POLES. CANDEL REP ALSO MADE IT CLEAR FROM HIS TONE THAT HE THOUGHT " TECHNICAL REASONS" SPURIOUS.) REGION V ICCS IS THUS PROPOSING TO PROCEED AS USUAL DESPITE THE GROUNDING OF HELICOPTERS. ONLY THE AN LOC TEAM WILL BE REALLY AFFECTED IN REGION V, AND THE CANDEL CHIEF REP EXPECTS THAT SAIGON WILL ALLOW " EXCEPTIONS" TO THE HELICOPTER BAN FOR THAT TEAM. E HAS ALREADY REQUESTED FIRST EXCEPTION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND IS AWAITING SAIGON REPLY.

4. WHITE REGION V ICCS HAS BEEN INFORMED CANADIAN POSITION RE INVESTIGATING PROCEDURES IS CURRENT, POLES AND HUNGARIANS ARE FINDING OTHER PRETEXTS FOR OBSTRUCTION AND DELAY. A TYPICAL EXAMPLE IS REJECTING ANY TRANSLATED DOCUMENT WHICH CONTAINS PHRASE " COMMUNIST FORCES."

5. HOWEVER. CANDEL CHIEF ASSERTS HE PLANS TO CONTINUE AGGRESSIVE TACTICS IN INVESTIGATIONS AND IF OTHERS WILL NOT ACCOMPANY. CANADIANS WILL CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS ALONE AND FILE SEPARATE CONFIDENTIAL

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REPORTS. HE ADDED THAT HUNGARIANS ARE PROVING MORE REASONABLE LATELY; IT IS POLES WHO REMAIN BIG OBSTACLE IN REGION V.

6. THE BEN CAT ICCS TEAM HAS FINALLY BEGUN WORK. APR 8 ALL FOUR DELEGATIONS JOINED IN AN INVESTIGATION OF AN ALLEGED VC ATTACK ON HOA LOI VILLAGE THE PREVIOUS NIGHT IN WHICH FOUR OF THE ATTACKERS WERE KILLED. THE INVESTIGATION WAS REQUESTED BY THE BINH DUONG PROVINCE CHIEF THROUGH THE RVN TPJMC REP AND WAS AGREED TO BY THE INDONESIAN CHAIRMAN, APPARENTLY WITHOUT ANYONE REFERRING THE MATTER TO REGION V HQ. ON APR 9, ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM REGIONAL, THE ENTIRE TEAM DROVE

TO BEN CAT FROM ITS LAM SON COMPOUND TO INVESTIGATE PREVIOUS VC SHELLING ATTACKS IN THE AREA. THIS INVESTIGATION WAS IN RESPONSE TO AN RVN REQUEST MADE WEEKS EARLIER. THESE ARE THE BEN CAT TEAM'S FIRST FULL INVESTIGATIONS IN ITS MONTH AND A- HALF EXISTENCE.

7. THE ICCS POINT OF ENTRY TEAM FOR THE BIEN HOA AIRFIELD MOVES INTO ITS BILLETES ON THE AIRFIELD TODAY. THE XA MAT TEAM WILL PROBABLY NOT MOVE THERE THIS WEEKEND AS SCHEDULED BECAUSE OF THE GROUNDING OF ICCS HELICOPTERS.

PART VI: MR 4

1. REPORTED ENEMY- INITIATED INCIDENTS NUMBERED 58 ON APR 11, SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN THE NORMAL CEASEFIRE AVERAGE FOR MR 4.

RVNAF CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 3 KIA AND 171 WIA AS
OPOSED TO 43 ENEMY KIA. THE COMMUNIST ACTIVITY WAS
HEAVIEST IN CHUONG THIEN WHICH REPORTED 17 INCIDENTS AND
KIEN PHONG WHICH REPORTED 9.

2. MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED IN THE HONG NGU AREA WITH TWO
VC ATTACKS BY FIRE. THE ARVN 15 TH REGIMEN TOOK ON VC/ NVA
UNITS IN TWO SEPARATE INSTANCES AND REPORTED A TOTAL OF 14
FRIENDLY KIA AND 58 WIA. ENEMY LOSSES FROM BOTH ENCOUN-
TERS WERE REPORTED AS 19 KIA. THE 15 TH AND ELEMENTS OF THE
16 TH REGIMENTS REPLACED THE 14 TH LAST WEEK. THE CONSULATE
GENERAL IS ATTEMPTING TO ACQUIRE MORE INFORMATION ON THE
LATTER TWO ATTACKS. THESE ENCOUNTERS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
APRIL 10 CONTACTS REPORTED SAIGON 6172, ARE FURTHER INDICATIONS
THAT ARVN MAY NO LONGER BE WILLING TO LEAVE THE INITIATIVE TO
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THE ENEMY IN THE HONG NGU AREA.

3. DAO/ SAIGON REPORTS FOLLOWING INFO RE REMAINING NINE- SHIP
PHNOM PENH MEKONG RIVER CONVOY STALLED AT TAN CHAU JUST

INSIDE RVN IN CHAUHYAC PROVINCE:

A. RVN IS MAKING EXTENSIVE PLANS FOR A " MAXIMUM EFFORT"
TO SECURE PASSAGE FOR CONVOY WHICH IS NOW SCHEDULED
TO SAIL FOR PHNOM PENH MARCH 13;

B. ADDITIONAL DELAY IS TO ALLOW ARVN 9 TH
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USDAO SAIGON
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PRE- CEASEFIRE LEVEL, ALTHOUGH OFFICIAL STATISTICS HAVE PORTRAYED A RELATIVELY PEACEFUL SITUATION. THERE APPEARS TO BE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF VC ACTIVITY (TAXATION AND PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES) GOING ON IN "100 PERCENT PACIFIED" SADEC. MOST AMERICANS AGREE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN CUT- OFF FROM SOME INFORMATION ABOUT BOTH SIDES ACTIVITIES, AND THE CONSULATE GENERAL CONCURS. HOWEVER, WHATEVER THE DEGREE OF FALSIFICATION, IT IS
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CATION OF REPORTING THROUGH OFFICIAL ARVN CHANNELS, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT MR 4 CG MGEN NGHI IS RECEIVING A REASONABLY ACCURATE PICTURE THROUGH HIS OWN CHANNELS.

5. THE REGION VII INDONESIAN ICCS DELEGATION CHIEF, COL CHALIMI SANTOSA, THIS WEEK' S REGION VIII CHAIRMAN, SAID APR 12 THAT ICCS SAIGON HAS AUTHORIZED ONLY ADMINISTRATIVE HELICOPTER FLIGHTS. HELICOPTERS MAY NOT BE USED FOR INVESTIGATIONS. SANTOSA SAID THAT THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION, HOWEVER, IS PREPARED TO GO ON INVESTIGATIONS BY VEHICLE, BOAT, CYCLO OR BY FOOT IF NECESSARY. IN CONNECTION WITH THE DOWNING OF THE ICCS HELICOPTER IN REGION I, SANTOSA SAID " SOME DELEGATIONS" IN SAIGON ARE THREATENING TO PULL OUT OF THE ICCS WHILE OTHERS ARE URGING THEM TO STAY. HE WOULD NOT SPECIFY WHICH DELEGATIONS WERE THREATENING WITHDRAWAL BUT DESCRIBED THE THREATS AS HAVING POLITICAL PURPOSES."

6. SANTOSA ALSO SAID APR 12 THAT AN NVA PRISONER THE CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS INTERVIEWED APR 10 (SEE SAIGON 6140 PAR 11 SITREP) HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED ABOUT THE ICCS OR OTHER DETAILS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THE SOLDIER, ACCORDING TO SANTOSA, HAD SERVED IN AN ANTI- AIRCRAFT UNIT. SANTOSA OBSERVED ICCS PERSONNEL WERE IN AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS POSITION IF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE NOT INFORMING THEIR TROOPS OF THE INVIOABILITY OF ICCS AIRCRAFT. SANTOSA SAID HE WOULD SEND THE OFFICIAL

INDONESIAN REPORT ON THE NVA PRISONER INTERVIEW TO SAIGON WHEN
THE GVN SUBMITS ITS OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF THE
DRV VIOLATION COMMITTED WHEN THE SOLDIERS INFILTRATED.

7. THE HONG NGU ICCS TEAM IS STILL WAITING IN THE WINGS IN
CAO LANH UNTIL THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE HONG NGU AREA
CLEAR UP. THE VINH LONG SUB- REGIONAL ICCS TEAM, MINUS
THE POLES, MADE ITS FIRST INVESTIGATION APR 10. THE TRIPAR-
TITE TEAM INVESTIGATED A BLOWN BRIDGE IN TRA ON DISTRICT OF
VINH LONG PROVINCE. THE POLES WERE APPARENTLY ORDERED
NOT TO GO ALONG ON THE INVESTIGATION.

8. THERE ARE SIGNS THAT THE VC/ NVA ARE INCREASING MILITARY
AND POLITICALACTIVITY IN KIEN HOA. ON THE MILITARY FRONT, GVN
TERRITORIAL FORCE UNITS, WHICH MOVED INTO VC ZONED AREA 490
AFTER THE CEASEFIRE, HAVE BEEN INTERCEPTING IN RECENT WEEKS
UNUSUALLY LARGE QUANTITIES OF VC/ NVA ARMS AND AMMUNITION.
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THE HAULS HAVE INCLUDED SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF 107 AND
120 MM ROCKET AMMUNITION. THE CAPTURED MATERIALEMAY HAVE
BEEN STORED FOR USE IN ATTACKS ON NEWLY- BUILT GVN OUTPOSTS IN
BASE AREA 490. SINCE THE CEASEFIRE, AT LEAST 20 OUTPOSTS HAVE
BEEN CONSTRUCTED ADJACENT TO AND IN THIS TRADITIONALLY COMMUN-
IST- CONTROLLED AREA. POLITICALLY, THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN
TERRORISM (PREVIOUSLY REPORTED). IN ADDITION, THE VC HAVE
LAUNCHED A " RETURN- TO- VILLAGE" CAMPAIGN.

9. CONGEN CAN THO REPORTS THAT AN NLF RADIO BROADCAST
APR 1 (FBIS OKINAWA 011621 Z APR) CLAIMING THAT 66 GVN
SOLDIERS HAD DESERTED IN DINH TUONG DURING THE FIRST TEN DAYS
IN MARCH HAS BEEN CAREFULLY CHECKED WITH TOP PROVINCE MILI-
TARY AND POLICE SOURCES AND FOUND TO BE MOST PROBABLY UNTRUE.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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To: STATE INFO BANGKOK
BUDAPEST
JAKARTA
MANILA
OTTAWA
PHNOM PENH
JEC PARIS

VIENTIANE
WARSAW
AMCONGEN DANANG
AMCONGEN NHA TRANG
AMCONGEN BIEN HOA
AMCONGEN CAN THO
CINCPAC
CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB
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